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WIVENHOE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health
for 1953

BRIGHTLINGSEA

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1954

Rebow Chambers,

Sir Isaacs Walk,

Colchester.

29th April, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the district for the year 1953.

The report is compiled in accordance with instructions set out in Ministry of Health circulars.

The district was fortunate in that the flooding which affected the town early in the year caused no loss of life, and was responsible for far less damage than neighbouring districts along the coast.

The few who were rendered homeless quickly found other accommodation.

With an increase in the number of births by nearly fifty per cent, the birth rate increased to 19.2 per 1,000 compared with 13.8 in 1952, and 15.5 for England and Wales this year. Generally, the health of the district was satisfactory.

I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the co-operation of the Staff and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.

WIVENHOE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Statistics and Social Circumstances of the Area

Area—1,493 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1953—2,492.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to rate books—920.

Rateable Value—£11,082.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£45.

Social Conditions

This district is situated on the east bank of the River Colne, about four miles from Colchester. Communications are by rail and road, the bus service being very satisfactory. The local industries are mainly ship-building, agriculture, general engineering, canning and clothing manufacture. It is also a small yachting and fishing centre.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births :	Legitimate ...	46	21	25	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 19.2.
	Illegitimate ...	2	1	1	
Still Births :	Legitimate ...	—	—	—	Rate per 1,000 total births. Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population 13.2.
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
Deaths	33	14	19	Corrected Death Rate 10.0.

Comparability figure 0.76.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births	20.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	21.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	2
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—

Deaths in the Various Age Groups (Local Statistics)

0—1 year	1
1—2 years	0
2—5 „	0
5—15 „	0
15—25 „	1
25—35 „	0
35—45 „	1
45—55 „	0
55—65 „	4
65—75 „	11
75—85 „	11
85 and upwards	4
	<hr/> 33 <hr/>

Causes of Death

	M	F
Influenza	1	—
Disease of Heart and Blood Vessels ...	8	12
Bronchitis	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—
Cancer	—	2
Suicide	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined disease ...	2	2

The following table shows the approximate state of Immunisation against Diphtheria at December 31st, 1953.

Population 0—4 inclusive	Number Immunised	Percentage
210	96	45.7
Population 5—14 inclusive		
350	322	92

National Assistance Acts, 1948-1951

No aged persons in need of care and attention were removed under these Acts during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

The Medical Officer of Health—W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is employed part time and devotes the rest of his time to two neighbouring Local Authorities and to the Essex County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector—W. Hodgson, M.R.San.I. He is also employed as Surveyor to the Council.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory attached to the Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

For chemical analysis they are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Samples of food and ice cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Ipswich.

Ambulance Facilities

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency, it is merely necessary to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

If there is a dialling system in operation—dial '999' '0' or '01' and ask for an ambulance.

Health Services provided by the County Council

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Nursing in the Home.

Health Visiting.

Mental Welfare.

Home Help Service.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School Health Service.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Community Centre on the first and third Tuesdays at 1.45 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Tel.: Colchester 4454.

Services provided by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis : The Chest Clinic is situated at 3 Shewell Road, Colchester. Consultations are held daily by appointment.

V.D.: Sessions are held at the Essex County Hospital at the following times :

Mondays, 5—7 p.m. for Males and Females.

Fridays, 2.30—3.30 p.m. for Females and Children.

Fridays, 3.30—4.30 p.m. for Males.

Certain specialist services are also provided, and obtainable through the School Health Service.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water : The Council provide a piped water supply from a deep bore. The levels in the bore hole have been maintained at a satisfactory level during the year. The quality, also has been satisfactory. The supply is chlorinated and has been examined at intervals.

Five samples have been taken for chemical analysis and 11 for bacteriological analysis.

Eighteen dwelling houses have been connected to the mains during the year. The number of houses now connected to the mains is 747 with an approximate population of 2,100.

The number of houses taking water from stand pipes is 129 with an approximate population of 340.

A typical analysis of the water is appended.

REPORT (Date of Report, 20.8.53)

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically, 1 per ml.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 3 days at Room Temp., 6 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C., 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli — per 100 ml.

Remarks : Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

P. H. MARTIN,
M.O. i/c P.H. Laboratory.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Clear and bright; Turbidity : Nil; Colour : Nil; Odour : Nil; pH : 8.1; Free Carbon Dioxide : 4; Electric Conductivity : 1850; Total Solids : 1230; Chlorine present as Chloride : 420; Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate : 305; Hardness Total 120, Carbonate 120, Non-carbonate 0; Nitrate Nitrogen : 0.0; Nitrite Nitrogen : less than 0.01; Ammoniacal Nitrogen†: 0.71; Oxygen Absorbed: 0.7; Albuminoid Nitrogen†: 0.000; Residual Chlorine : Absent; Metals : Iron, 0.10, other metals absent.

† To convert to Ammonia multiply by 1.21

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is moderate and it is normal with respect to its high content of mineral and saline constituents. It is of satisfactory organic quality.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. Its content of fluorine is however known to be higher than the most desirable figure.

ROY C. HOATHER.

8th July, 1953.

Housing

Although the number of applicants for Council houses is still considerable, a large percentage give addresses in other districts, some as far afield as Yorkshire and Shropshire.

The number of Council houses erected during the year was 8, the number built by private enterprise was 10. Two unfit houses were converted into 1 dwelling house.

Sewage Disposal

The operation of the sewage pumps was affected by the floods which occurred in the early part of February. The pumping station was flooded to a depth of two feet and the pumps were put out of action for four days.

Crude sewage during this period was discharged direct into the tidal river.

Generally the Sewage Works are operating to capacity, and any new development will require extensions.

During the year 6 dwelling houses were connected to the sewer.

One small extension of 60 feet was made.

Meat and other Foods

Food and Catering establishments have been inspected. The following Food Premises are established in the district :

Grocers, 9	Sweets (other than Grocers), 3	Bakers, 2
Dairies, 1	Ice Cream, 11	Cafe, 1
Public Houses, 1	Fried and Wet Fish, 1	Butchers, 3
Confectionery, 1	Fish and Fruit Canning Factory, 1	Greengrocers, 2

Number of food premises registered under Sec. 14 of the Food and

Drugs Act :

Ice Cream Dealers, 11	Fried Fish Shop, 1
Sausage Manufacturers, 1	Canning Fruit and Fish, 1

All ice cream dealers handle prepacked products only.

The Canning Factory is run on modern lines and has extensive cold storage and deep freeze facilities.

Condemned food is normally disposed of by burial on a suitable site.

No special examinations have been carried out of consignments of food.

Food condemned during the year included the following :

Beef, 40 lbs ; Pork, 82 lbs.; Mutton, 37 lbs.; Sugar, 14 lbs; Canned Milk, 27 tins. Other canned food, 9 tins.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman,

I beg to submit my report of the work carried out during the year in my capacity as Sanitary Inspector.

No. of Premises inspected under the Public Health Acts	134
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No. of Premises inspected under the Housing Acts	8
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Inspections and visits with regard to complaints, work in hand, property under notice and routine inspections :

Under the Public Health Acts	277
Under the Housing Acts	12
Pest Act	39
Butchers Shops and Food Stores	34
Ice Cream Dealers	26
Factories and Workplaces	35
Piggeries	5
Drainage Systems inspected and tested	31
Interviews with owners, etc.	24
Water Samples taken	17

As a result of the foregoing, the following actions have resulted :

Statutory Notices served and complied with	1
Informal letters sent and complied with	14
Disinfections and disinfestations	4
Rodent Treatments carried out	13
Drainage Systems altered, repaired and cleared	10

I remain Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. HODGSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

March, 1954.

Infectious Disease

Notifiable disease was much less prevalent than last year. Actually there were 43 cases fewer. The chief disease was whooping cough which showed an increase of 14 cases.

The following table shows the numbers notified in the various age groups :

Disease	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Total
Whooping Cough	1	12	7	—	—	—	20
Measles	—	4	3	—	—	—	7
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Dysentery (source)	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

Tuberculosis

Two cases of Pulmonary disease were notified.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Routine inspections of factories have been made; any defects observed have been remedied.

The following table gives details of the work carried out :


INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	6	15
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	8	12
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	5	8
TOTAL	<u>19</u>	<u>35</u>

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective ...	2	2
OUTWORK—Nil.		



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